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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,187	11/18/2003	Malcolm John Warrack	D601-002-PAT	6227

7590 11/07/2005

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EXAMINER

HWU, DAVIS D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3752

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/717,187

Applicant(s)

WARRACK ET AL.

Examiner

Davis D. Hwu

Art Unit

3752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4-19-04
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's communication of October 17, 2005 is acknowledged and entered. In response to the communication, a new office action is hereby issued as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pedersen et al. (US Patent 5,832,187).

Pedersen et al. '187 discloses a method to protect assets within a defined region against the threat of fire comprising the steps of:

A) positioning aerial forest fire fighting assets 40 within a range allowing the assets to reach and attack a surveyed fire anywhere within a periphery of one or more strategic assets;

B) integrating available regional ground fire fighting assets 30 to follow up initial forest fire aerial attacks;

C) continually surveying the periphery of the strategic assets using one or more sensors;

D) gathering surveillance data from sensors in a central command;

E) analyzing surveillance data according to user defined algorithms and databases data in the central command;

- F) generating an alarm status in the central command based on the comparison of the analysis of the surveillance data with reference data;
- G) alerting the aerial forest fighting assets when the comparison justifies such alerting, such alerting being communicated by the central command;
- H) initiating an order to aerial attack a detected fire using the aerial forest fighting assets when the comparison justifies such order, such order being issued by the central command;
- I) alerting hierarchical superior fire fighting command and control assets when the comparison justifies such alerting, such alerting being communicated by the central command and repeating steps C through I when the comparison justifies repeating the steps.

Pedersen et al. do not disclose the assets being able to reach the periphery of one or more strategic assets within a specific time of issuance of an order to attack a fire or the periphery being at least 10 miles in radius. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to position the assets within a range to allow the assets to attack a fire within a certain time as recited in order to attack the fire as quickly as possible and to continually survey the periphery of the strategic assets, the periphery being at least ten miles in radius in order to be able to monitor the entire burning area. The analysis of surveillance data by way of suitable algorithms and database data is performed by a central computing device (Column 7, lines 40-43) as recited in claim 4. The method of Pedersen et al. can be used to protect any of the various strategic asset recited in claims 6-17.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents to Pedersen et al. ('981 and '331) are pertinent to Applicant's invention.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Davis D. Hwu whose telephone number is 571-272-4904. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Scherbel can be reached on 571-272-4919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Davis Hwu

DAVIS HWU
PRIMARY EXAMINER